

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be re-examined.

Applicants' undersigned attorney thanks Examiner Kuhns for the courtesy shown during a brief telephone conversation on October 20. In accordance with that conversation, this amendment adds the word "entire" to Claim 38, the only claim remaining in this application.

The final Office Action in the above-identified application, dated August 22, 2003 ("Office Action"), rejected Claim 38, the only claim in this application, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the teachings of Macaire et al. for the reasons set forth in the first Office Action in this application. The Office Action states that applicants' arguments filed May 23, 2003, had been fully considered but were not persuasive.

The Office Action noted applicants' arguments that Macaire et al. teaches a process wherein layers of prepreg 6 are placed in the bottom of a mold 1 and layers of prepreg 5 are placed in the upper part of the mold. The Office Action also noted applicants' argument that Macaire et al. does not teach "arranging a sheet of prepreg material around the inside of the internal cavity, the prepreg being of a size such that prepreg extends around the inner surface of the mold." The Office Action stated that this argument is not persuasive because each of the layers 5 and 6 of Macaire et al. in fact extend around the inner surface or perimeter of the mold, which is what is required by the language of Claim 38.

While, arguably, Macaire et al. does teach layers 5 and 6 that extend around a portion (top and bottom) of a mold, Macaire et al. does not teach "arranging a sheet of prepreg material around the inside of the internal cavity, the prepreg being of a size such that the prepreg extends around the entire inner circumference of the mold," as recited in Claim 38, as amended (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that this language is not taught or even remotely suggested by Macaire et al. Applicants further submit that this subject matter would

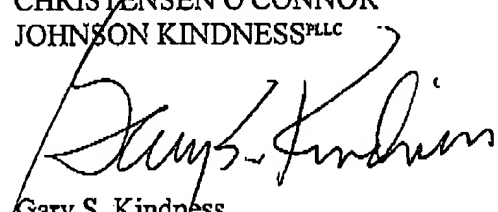
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not be obvious in view of the teachings of Macaire et al. since Macaire et al. neither teaches nor suggests extending a prepreg layer around the "entire" inner surface of a mold, nor does Macaire et al. disclose any benefit resulting from such an extension. As a result, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 38, as amended, is clearly allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, early and favorable action allowing Claim 38 and passing this application to issue is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

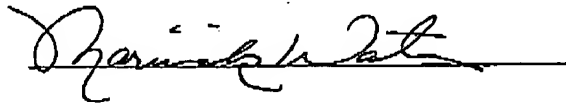
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Group Art Unit 1732, Examiner A.R. Kuhns, at facsimile number 703-305-7718 on October 22, 2003.

Date:

October 22, 2003



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